CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 8, No. 14 TORONTO, MARCH 31st, 1943 $2.00 Per Annum

Alberta Trade Sees Big Year

Alaskan Roadmen May Help to Boost Admissions by Million

Motion picture attendance in Alberta exceeded all previous records during the fiscal year of the province which ended today, according to a report from the provincial treasurer's department. Alberta exhibitors are looking forward to a disproportionately greater increase during the next annual period because of the presence of thousands of Americans working on the Alcan Highway. It is estimated that the new fiscal period will show 1,250,000 admissions more than this one.

In 1940, according to the report of Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued in 1942, Alberta patronage totalled 8,301,586 — 526,095 more than in 1939. The 1941 figures left

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Sask. Exhibs Ask For Film Depot

Saskatchewan exhibitors, at the meeting of their Motion Picture Exhibitors Association in Saskatoon, asked that the distributors establish a depot at some handy point in the province. Saskatchewan has something like 150 theatres, which are serviced from Winnipeg for the East and Calgary for

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Ottawa Studies Raw Stock Use

At the request of the War Production Board of the USA, which body rules over the allocation of raw stock, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, through Roy Geddes, has undertaken a study of the use of positive film base in the Dominion. It is estimated that Canada has been using 25 per cent

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W'peg Theatres Are Fireproof

Ald. William Scraba reported to the safety committee of the Winnipeg City Council last week that the city's theatres were more fireproof than at any time in the past. He said that children could attend theatres without fear of fire.

Theatre Inspectors To Fire Meeting

For the first time theatre inspectors of every provincial department have been asked to the annual meeting of the Dominion Fire Prevention Association, of which Col. John A. Cooper is the president. The Association will meet at the Seignory Club, Quebec City, on May 20, 21, and 22.

Canadian fire marshals will attend the meeting.

The Hatfields and The McCoys

The prize draw at the Pioneers ball showed winners right across the Dominion. Nova Scotia, for instance, took four. You certainlly can't call Toronto Hogtown on that one. Archie Laurie and Cecil Snyder, Deputy Attorney General of Ontario, were among those who were there to see that it was fair.

It yielded a laugh, however, when Harrison Patte, Ontario booker for Famous Players, won as a prize, a two-people pass— to any Odeon theatre!!

New Jersey Fights Blind Checking

The New Jersey Allied Exhibitors are boosting a bill headed for the state legislature that would make blind checking of theatres illegal. It will be aired some time next month.

Redpath Is President Of New 16 Mm. Body

William Redpath of General Films was elected president of the recently-organized Canadian 16 Mm. Motion Picture Distributors Association at their first meeting last week. Col. John A. Cooper is chairman of the board and Miss M. S. Doerr is secretary-treasurer. The directors are Oscar Hanson, William Redpath, Walter Kennedy and Col. Cooper.

A committee was appointed to confer with the four service organizations about improving the booking of 16 mm.'s in army camps.

Theatre Men Win In Manitoba

The Manitoba Legislature killed the much disputed bill intended to keep children under 14 out of theatres in that province unless accompanied by parents. A full story can be found inside.

Film Red Cross May Jump 25%

The Canadian motion picture industry's drive in aid of the Red Cross is meeting with even greater success than last year's effort, it is indicated by reports reaching the offices of the film committee's chairman, Col. John A. Cooper.

"As far as I can see from the subscriptions coming in from all

(Continued on Page 4)

Nine Indicted In Film Fraud

That the motion picture industry has been since 1932 the victim of vicious extortion and racketeering on a far larger scale than has been heretofore suspected was revealed last week when the USA Department of Justice indicted nine well-known racketeers and one IATSE business agent. The

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Canadian Pioneers In Spring Session

The Canadian Picture Pioneers, meeting at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on March 23rd, listened to Hal Hode of Columbia Pictures, New York, review the origin of the organization. Hode's address was sentimental and of particular appeal to 24 new members who were initiated at the meeting. These had reached the mark of 25 years in the industry, which is the requirement of membership to the international body of film veterans.

Hode revealed that the Pioneers had originated in the mind of Jack Cohn of Columbia pictures at the funeral of an old-time film man, a close friend of those who had charted the course of the industry from store shows to cinema cathedrals. Cohn, impressed with the need of film veterans for protection against the uncertainties of life, had said: "Why don't we give them flowers when they can smell them?" He then introduced the idea to many who had served the industry for much of their lives

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Laurie to NY

Archie Laurie, Canadian sales manager of Republic, is in New York for a meeting of the company's sales staff.

'Hit Parade of 1943' Variety, bible of the business, says of REPUBLIC'S great musical, "A hit . . . another industry grosser . . . boff the boxoffice . . . will do a very hefty business." Motion Picture Herald says, "All the things a musical ought to be this one is . . . a new high . . . right for all kinds of people." BOOK THIS BOXOFFICE MUSICAL NOW! (advt.)

Film Weekly Vol. 3, No. 14 March 31, 1943
HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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Entered as Second Class Matter

Not So Bad

Campbell Dixon, film critic of the London Daily Mail, recently gave Hollywood a good dressing down for misrepresenting Americans to Britons and vice-versa. An interesting addition to the subject was made by Professor D. W. Brogan, Cambridge University, who writes from London to the New York Times.

Professor Brogan differs with Dixon on the impressions left on the European mind by Hollywood films. He says the folks over there don't kid themselves about stenographers living in penthouses, even though films show that, and he points out that the life of the average man over here, as revealed truly by Hollywood, still excites the envy of Europeans.

Writes Professor Brogan:

The United States is now associated all over Europe (and above all in Britain) with a series of visual images that the European peoples find attractive. America is a background to the movies. And the foreground? It is filled with film actors. It is a link between England and America that in both countries nine people out of ten or ninety-nine people out of a hundred, if asked what Christian name they associated with Russell would reply at once Rosalind for one who would reply Bertrand. The sight of an English film audience laughing uproariously at a Bob Hope film —even at its most American when the audience has missed the joke—is another proof of the fundamental link of the movies.

Although quotas, censorship and linguistic barriers make this link less important on the Continent it is yet tremendously important. No nationalist zeal or mania could cure the Italians of their passion for Laurel and Hardy, and even the Germans, if left to themselves would, we can be sure, rather enjoy what Hollywood thinks is good for them than what Dr. Goebbels does.

But it is not only a question of stars. It is the minor actors, too. Taken together, they give a picture of American life that is varied, sometimes silly, sometimes worse than silly, but that is less silly than people pretend and is very seldom as silly or as dull or as misleading as Petain.

* * *

In a run-of-the-mill European film, what is the general impression given? A less misleading impression than the serious thinker believes. Even the most naive European spectator of an American film does not think that American stenographers live in Park Avenue apartments — at any rate on the wages of stenography. He knows when Hollywood is giving him a conducted tour to Cloud-Cuckoo-Land. But he compares his native Cloud-Cuckoo-Land with the American version, usually to the advantage of the American version. He is more likely to be impressed by the apparent ease of life of minor characters from the lower income brackets than by the luxury in which the millionaires and big shots live. He does not expect to be a millionaire; he does hope for some betterment in his condition as a bank clerk or railroad man.

It is the kitchens, the cheap cars, the drug stores, the tourist camps, of which Hollywood gives frequent glimpses, that excite the envy or emulation that promotes discontent. Hitler was wise to discourage American films in Germany, films showing life in a country where a people's car is a reality, not a confidence trick.

* * * *

What they see is a flexible, ingenious, materially minded, likable way of life. In a score of ways the picture of the American, given by the pictures, was weakening to old taboos, weakening to old social barriers and also, no doubt, destroying valuable social habits. The movies are innocently the most revolutionary instrument that has come from America since the Declaration of Independence. They are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" in images—and images speak more effectually than words.

Expect Boom in Alberta Biz

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the old ones behind. The addition of 1,250,00 to the figures quoted above means that Alberta business, if expectations come true, will hit an unheard-of high.

Theatres turned back $195,109 in the last fiscal year as amusement tax, compared with $180,490 the year before.

As in the year before, Calgary led the province with collections of $64,733 of amusements tax. Its total the previous year was $57,233.

Collections at Edmonton in the 1941-42 year amounted to $57,164, as against $56,464 the previous year.

Other places in the province paid $53,815 in the 1941-42 period; in the year previous the total was $49,796.

Sask. Exhibs Ask For Film Depot

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the West.

Because delivery of prints in the province are made over longer than the usual distances, prices are higher. In consideration of this a special reduced rate was obtained from the express companies some years ago. Not only the question of whether the present situation warrants any change enters into the possibility of meeting the request. The Wartime Prices and Trade Board has ruled against any expansion or opening of additional offices by all firms.

The exhibitors also asked that prints not be booked so closely together, so that inconvenience be avoided when trains fail to match their schedules. A suggestion was made that prints be on hand at the theatre 24 hours ahead of dating. Extra prints, which might solve the difficulty, are out of the question right now.

The care and distribution of posters, etc., and the need for greater care in revising came in for discussion.

Theatre Fined For Nude Act

Jean-Marie Pronovost, manager of the Starland, Montreal, was fined $50 and costs by Judge J.-C. Langlois for having permited an "obsence spectacle," a nude dancer, on the stage of his theatre on January 24th last.

Vadnis to Manage

Gaston Vadnis has been appointed manager of the Drummond Theatre, Drummondville, Quebec.

Canad'n Pioneers In Spring Session

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and it met with an immediate response. The growth of the Pioneers in every city was proof of the worthiness of Cohn's thoughts.

J. J. Fitzgibbons, chairman of public relations for the Pioneers, reviewed their work, aims and objects. Oscar Hanson, the past president, suggested that the organization endow hospital cots in memory of those members who had passed, leaving a fitting tribute to them that would win appreciation everywhere. Dave Ongley, solicitor of the Pioneers, reviewed the by-laws and discussed the structure of the body. Ray Lewis, secretary-treasurer, also spoke.

New members initiated at this meeting were: From Toronto—Clare Appel, Pete Brown, Abe Cass, Arthur Cohen, Dave Coplan, Bill Covert, Charlie Doerr, Abe Fox, Ben Geldsaler, Billy Gould, Len Hoffman, Jack Hunter, Harry Kaufman, Albert Massey, Art Milligan, Morris Milligan, Joe Palansky, Joe Plottel, Jimmie Powis, George Robinson, W. A. Sault, Morris Stein, Dave Siegel and Roy Tash; From Montreal—Wm. Elman, Tommy Dowbiggin, Frank Leduc, Allen Murray and E. N. Tabah; From Winnipeg—Vic Armand, George Dowbiggin, Pete Mahon, Leslie Paine, Jack Rice and Samuel Swartz; From Calgary—John C. Green, Leo Maher and Vernon Skorey. Others were: Sid Goldstone, Peterborough, George Lennon, Glencoe; E. L. Moore, North Bay; W. A. McGeechie, Sault Ste. Marie; J. Ollie Scott, Weston, and John W. Ward, Niagara Falls.

Nineteen new prospective members are still to be passed on.

Out of town guests were seated at the head of the luncheon table, Clair Hague, the president, being the only Toronto member who shared the front ranks with them. Hague acted as chairman. Those who were up front included Albert Bey, Thetford Mines; Bill O'Regan, Laurier, Hull, Quebec; Syd Goldstone, Centre, Peterborough; Mrs. Bessie Moore, Grimsby; Simon Meretsky, Windsor; Hal Hode, New York; and Jack Butler, Moncton. Fred Purcell of Simcoe and Mrs. Eva Delaney of Gananoque did not attend the luncheon, which preceded the dinner, but were present at the meeting which followed.

A minute of silence was observed in memory of Jay J. Allen, Arthur Lee, Mike Wilkes, Sam Brent and Ben Witham, members who had passed on in the last year.

The meeting discussed the benevolent ball, first of its kind in North America and being imitated by other branches, which was taking place that night.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE OF THE CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 8, No. 14 | COAST-TO-COAST COVERAGE | March 31, 1943

'They Got Me Covered' Funny

'Hit Parade' A1 Musical

"HIT PARADE OF 1943"
REPUBLIC
(Running Time: 82 Mins.)

You can't take it away from Republic. In "Hit Parade of 1943" they have just that. The film, distinguished by fine sound and photography, is a steady march of enjoyable players with completely diversified talents. It runs together smoothly and even the story, which is somewhat routine, unfolds in fast and interesting fashion.

What gives the story some semblance of novelty is the lovely semi-burlesque it provides on the writing of popular songs and radio singing commercials. Every radio listener will recognize these amusing thrusts at the sort of things that reach into his home every day.

Not only are there a number of clever vaudeville turns on hand but the production gives them all they need to provide a feature-length program of the type clogging box offices at the moment. Plenty of girls and high-class music rendered by some of the most popular bands of the day give it glamor and entertainment.

Nor can one overlook the acting performances. Susan Hayward, a wronged songwriter out for revenge against John Carroll, who stole her tunes, is splendid. Probably the best acting performance belongs to Eve Arden, as Hayward's cynical girl friend, who tosses lines with ear-catching curves. Gail Patrick, as a mean wench, does no mean job.

Melville Cooper and Walter Catlett are also on hand and keep their ends up very well.

Here are the various acts, some sensational: Jack Williams, the Harlem Sandman; Dorothy Dandridge; Pops & Louie; Music Maids; Three Cheers; Chinita; Golden Gate Quartette; and the orchestras of Freddy Martin, Count Basie and Ray McKinley.

There are seven new popular tunes, and several grand production numbers.

Republic, when it wants to take the strings off its purse, knows how to make the best use of its expenditures. The recognized major studios can do no better.

HOPE AND LAMOUR KEEP LAUGHS ROLLING

"THEY GOT ME COVERED"
RKO
(Running Time: 96 Minutes)

Bob Hope is one of Filmdom's most consistently saleable commodities today — practically a standard brand with a money back guarantee. He never gives a bad performance. Likeable and lookable, he's got his hooks into both sexes and all ages.

The ski-nosed snapper whipper is off Paramount's busy "Roads" in this one, making what should be a highly-profitable cinematic excursion for Samuel Goldwyn and RKO. Though it's a comparative jaunt, and though he has Dorothy Lamour all to himself, it's still a very happy hike.

BOB HOPE

Hope, unhindered by Crosby and his crooning, concentrates on a number of extremely funny slapstick scenes, leaving very little impression with those who are used to the trio that he is short-handed. "They Got Me Covered," which got wide circulation as a book giveaway for his radio program, is fast and funny all the way—and sometimes furious. Hope fans will have their fill.

The excuse for his capering and wisecracks this time is an Axis spy ring. Hope is a war correspondent just back from Russia and Lamour is the sweetheart who is always covering up his indiscretions and protecting him from the boss.

There's nothing new about the plot and Hope bothers about it very little. He uses it as a mere excuse to turn on the laughs and it's better that way.

The film is a series of situations, some screamy. In one he is trapped by a lunatic, played by Donald Meek. In another he finds himself married to a stranger, Marion Martin. Much footage is devoted to Hope avoiding Axis gunmen in a beauty parlor, during which he is dressed as a woman. That's how it goes.

There's one tune, a catchy one, in the picture.

The cast includes Lenore Aubert, a mighty purty wench, who will get more work, and Otto Preminger, Edward Cianelli, Phillip Ahn and Walter Catlett.

Have YOU Helped
The Motion
Picture Committee
of the
CANADIAN RED CROSS
Campaign Yet?

'Hard Way' OK Drama

"THE HARD WAY"
(Running Time: 97 Mins.)
WARNERS

This film is for the grownups who can stand a peek at life as it really is for certain kinds of people in certain kinds of places. It probably is somewhat unsweet for average tastes but it is exceedingly well acted in its main roles and will keep the audience in the theatre for the full route. Though there is music and gaiety, the overlying spirit is tragedy. However, the light and heavy side are kept well apart as the script develops, thus avoiding the weird mixture that has caused unpleasant reactions in other cases.

The story revolves around the conflict between a hard, scheming woman and a good-natured man for the love and loyalty of a young girl. In the end the man loses to the woman but neither wins.

Ida Lupino plays the ruthless femme, the role being a familiar one, and she gives an expert performance. The surprise of the picture is the acting of Jack Carson, who has been growing in importance of late. As the cocky, happy-go-lucky vaudeville actor whose character and confidence gives way slowly to the superior scheming of Lupino, he does an outstanding job. The person whose loyalty is being contended for is Joan Leslie. Dennis Morgan is on hand as the partner of Carson.

Lupino is the wife of a coal miner who hates her grimy and impoverished life. When Carson falls in love with Joan Leslie and makes an actress of her, Lupino sees a chance to escape from her unsatisfactory existence. She joins the vaudevillians and succeeds in separating Carson and Leslie when the young girl becomes a hit, pushing her towards greater fame. This leads to Carson's suicide. Morgan, with whom Lupino has fallen in love, is aware of her knavery. In the end Lupino pays the price of her wickedness and Morgan inherits Leslie. Miss Leslie's singing and acting is no great shakes but it passes.

The cast, which lends capable support, includes Gladys George.

Film Red Cross May Jump 25%

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points in the Dominion, our total will be at least 25 per cent greater than that of the previous year," stated Col. Cooper. "This is in addition to the other efforts of the industry in behalf of local campaigns."

Exchanges, circuits and independents have increased their donations this year. Some of the contributions recorded so far are Famous Players, $17,000; Odeon Theatres, $9,315; Empire-Universal, $1,500; Associated Screen News, $1,250; Paramount, $1,000; 20th Century-Fox, $1,000; Regal, $1,000; Columbia, $350; Film Laboratories, $250; Sovereign Films, $500; Esquire, $500; Western Theatres, Winnipeg, $590; United Amusements, Montreal, $700; Confederation Amusements, Montreal, $225.

The contributions of both Famous Players and Odeon Theatres have been distributed to the various Red Cross branches throughout Canada.

Lobby displays, literature and screen appeals are being used to make the needs of the Red Cross known to the patrons. Maritimes exhibitors, such as Archie Mason, William Cuzner, W. E. Spencer are busy in behalf of the drive. The Halifax theatres got permission to place collection boxes in the theatres and Bob Roddick, Capitol, reports that his netted $626.76—mostly from the men in uniform.

Prince Edward Island was the first province to go over its quota and in a letter to the chairman of the motion picture drive, Dr. Macmillen, member of the legislature, praised the PEI movie men for their hearty co-operation.

R. and J. Bull, Regent, and Sam Russ, Gayety, both Collingwood, Ont., theatres, ran special shows for the drive, the proceeds being donated.

Manager Burned In Theatre Fire

Jacques Lemieux, manager of the Cinema, Levis, Quebec, had his hand badly burned putting out a fire in his projection room. The blaze wrecked the projector and damaged electrical equipment. The theatre was unable to open.

Gehring, Bush In Toronto Visit

Wm. C. Gehring, Eastern Division manager of 20th Century-Fox, and Rodney Bush of the Hal Horne setup, which handles the firm's publicity, were in Toronto last week. They confabbed with Jim O'Loghlin, Fox exchange head in Canada.

Filmites Hop, Skip and Romp

Filmites and friends flickered and fluttered about to expert sound supervised by Leo Romanelli last Tuesday all-night to help clog the coffers of the Canadian Picture Pioneers Benevolent Fund. The shin den for the occasion was the mammoth banquet hall of the Royal York Hotel, which was well filled with sliding and gliding figures in every manner of dress from top-hat-and-tails to service uniforms.

Showmen and their ladies showed off steps from polka to jive. Everything from stately shuffling to frantic antics was revealed. Exchange men exchanged dancing partners with exhibs, who exhibited equally lovely companions. Kissworthy femmes blocked the public eyeways.

Archie Laurie, as usual, asked for plenty of playdates. "If and when available," jibed exhibs. "There's no percentage in that," muttered Laurie. Hard-working Walter Kennedy demanded full clearance and Tom Daley asked for immediate protection. Charlie Mavety, who worked hard and expertly to make the musical roundup a success, horsed around and cantered about. Ray Lewis was here, there and everywhere making sure that nothing would interefere with the affair being a super production.

Hollywood scouts were present in droves, offering to trade contracts for rejection papers.

* * *

Something of a Spectacle

The general scene was something that reflected the efforts of the Pioneers to provide a movie character. You passed the front of an old-time nickelodeon, complete with signs of ancient attractions, as you entered the main hall. Bill Stewart booked a singing and playing troupe, the members of which wandered all over the place doing their stuff.

The walls and edges of the dance floor were adorned with signs from various companies in the business. A grafanola of yesteryear decorated the centre with a sign identifying it as the Pioneers' original orchestra. Ray Lewis' stand, with its display of preserves, magazines and songs, provided a touch of County Fair. Ray hustled and bustled about with her usual zeal, missing no chances to pick up an extra quarter for the fund.

There were heaps of prizes for the draw, spotlight dances and other things of that nature.

* * *

All Over the Place

The film folk seemed to have taken over the hotel for the evening. As is the custom, many maintained rooms as a base of operations, into which wanderers strayed and from which all made occasional excursions to the dance floor. The traffic was terrific.

In many of these headquarters time seemed to be playing a triple feature. The reason was that the hockey game between the Leafs and Detroit was coming over the radio and was part of the hub-bub. The game went into 70 minutes of overtime without many being aware of it. Timing themselves by the length of the game, they didn't reach the floor until about 1.30 a.m. The Pioneers took care of this oversight by having the band continue until each had his fill.

There were a number of out-of-town filmites present. Bill Gehring, 20th Fox Eastern Division chief, was on hand from New York. Herb Freshman, Jean Gregory and other theatre-connected folk from Hamilton were among those who managed to make the trip in, as did Pioneers Albert Bey, Bill O'Regan, Syd Goldstone, Mrs. Bessie Moore, Simon Meretsky, Hal Hode, Jock Butler, Fred Purcell and Mrs. Eve Delaney.

All in all, the motion picture ball lived up to its reputation as very lively and enjoyable occasion and the Pioneers can order a re-issue any time and be sure of top patronage.

Ottawa Studies Raw Stock Use

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less raw stock than in the previous years as a result of cuts in allocation across the line, where the material originates.

Right now the WPB is busy figuring out how to reduce present allocations and newsreels may get its attention next. It has been estimated that Canada uses some 45,000,000 feet of raw stock per year for domestic purposes.

The Eastman Kodak plant was established in Ontario to take care of Canadian film needs over 10 years ago on a guarantee of 25,000,000 feet per year. In recent years the plant has turned out 200,000,000 feet annually for domestic consumption and export to the British Empire. How this export market bears on Canada's quota hasn't been figured out yet.

Canadian distributors, recognizing the coming of reissues, are picking out certain films that can stand bringing back and storing the prints. In the past the practice has been to destroy prints after two years.

FPC Plans Post-War House in St. John's

Famous Players has purchased a site in St. John's, N.B., for a theatre to be built after the war. The property became available when LaTour Hotel burned down some time ago. The property is downtown, opposite the Capitol, an FPC theatre. The parcel of land was acquired from the T. Eaton Realty Co. C. F. Inches, K.C., acted for Famous.

The theatre circuit also acquired a 13-foot key lot from the municipality. During the voting on the sale by the City Council W. E. Golding, manager of the Capitol, who is a member of that body, refrained from voting.

A public thoroughfare had been planned by the city which would have crossed the lots in question. This may be abandoned, city officials considering that a new and modern theatre would do more to beautify and modernize the city.

Baby Born In Projection Booth

A baby was born in the projection room of the Rockingham theatre, Bellows Falls, Vermont, to Mr. John Scanlon, wife of a projection machine operator. Approximately 500 persons viewed a movie unaware of the human drama. The baby was delivered by Dr. Harry Goldman after Mrs. Scanlon had gone to the theatre to have her husband summon a taxicab to take her to a hospital. Scanlon continued to operate the machine.

Suggestions For Care of Film

The Toronto Film Board has expressed concern regarding the care and handling of film while in the hands of theatre staffs.

The shortage of revisers and bad shipping conditions make it necessary for theatres to take every precaution in seeing that film is returned in good condition.

The following suggestions should be a great help:

(1) Censor bands should be securely attached to reels and be sure that the proper bands are on the proper reels.

(2) Film should be rewound so that the reel is even, no single layers extending at the sides of the reels. This is sometimes due to faulty or worn-out rewinders, and if shipped in this condition, they invariably reach the exchange with the edges broken, and that makes it necessary to cut out broken parts.

(3) In a number of instances, film is received from the exhibitor with unscraped and improperly made patches. This creates delay in rewinding and inspecting.

(4) Film should be returned to the exchange immediately after showing in the theatre. This is very important today as there are less means of transportation and more time is required between each shipment.

If managers and exhibitors will take the above matters up with operators and employees, it will be of great aid to the industry as a whole.

'Pimpernel' Prize Offered Exhibs

Producers Releasing Corp. has announced a managers' exploitation contest based on the novelty of ideas used during the campaign on "The Scarlet Pimpernel," the winner to receive $25.00.

The judges are: Dan Krendel, supervisor of Famous Players; William Summerville, supervisor of B&F theatres; Charles Stephenson, publicity manager, EBA; and Clare Appel, publicity manager, Odeon theatres. Any information required can be obtained from Paul Maynard, Toronto branch manager.

Fee Ceiling Raised If For War Effort

Admission prices, frozen by the Wartime Trade Board, may be raised with permission if the proceeds above what the usual fee yields go to a war effort fund. The most recent instance of this was provided by the Calgary debut of "In Which We Serve," which was sponsored by the IODE.

The Officers and Board of

Canadian Picture Pioneers

and the

Special Benevolent Fund Committee

wish to express their sincere thanks to

All the Pioneers and the Film Trade

and to

Our Many Friends

who so generously cooperated in making

The Pioneers' Benevolent Fund Ball

and

Prize Draw a Success!

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS

3176, L. Roher, 46 Austin Terrace, Toronto, Ont. — $50 War Bond donated by Mr. J. J. Fitzgibbons, President, Famous Players.

9499, Zelma Dempsey, Avon Theatre, Stratford, Ont.—$50 War Bond donated by Famous Players.

11943, B. E. Norrish, Associated Screen News, Montreal, Que.—$25 War Savings Certificate donated by Mr. Paul Nathanson.

12410, Marie Keating, 90 Archibald St., Moncton, N.B.—$25 War Savings Certificate donated by Mr. Syd Taube.

2917, Myra Willinsky, 120 Madison Ave., Toronto, Ont.—$25 War Savings Certificate donated by Mr. Leo Schlesinger.

19521, Helen Bowes, 38 Cliff St., St. John, N.B.—$25 War Savings Certificate donated by Canadian Moving Picture Digest.

10675, C. H. Toope, C. P. Express Co., 11407-68 St., Edmonton, Alta.—$25 War Savings Certificate donated by General Films Ltd.

13612, Syd Roth, Hermant Building, 21 Dundas Sq., Toronto, Ont. —$25 War Savings Certificate donated by Mavety Film Delivery Service.

14051, Eddie Goldsmith, Monogram Pictures, 277 Victoria St., Toronto, Ont.—$25 War Savings Certificate donated by Sovereign Films Ltd.

15078, Mrs. May R. Gordon, 35 Don Valley Dr., Toronto, Ont.—$10 donated by General Theatre Supply Co. Ltd.

12403, M. L. Waters, 831 Main St., Moncton, N.B.—$5 War Savings Certificate donated by Paramount Films Service Ltd.

12637, Fred Gregor, New Waterford, Nova Scotia—$5 War Savings Certificate donated by Metro Display Service.

9571, James Sullivan, 103½ Church St., St. Catharines, Ont.—$5 War Savings Certificate donated by Coleman Electric Co.

10606, M. May, 144-10 St. N.W., Calgary, Alta.—$5 War Savings Certificate donated by Independent Poster Exchange.

14401, Phillip Phelan, 595 Sussex St., Ottawa, Ont. — 26-piece Glass bake ovenware donated by Canadian Premium Distributors.

17708, J. S. Robert, Rialto Theatre, Three Rivers, Que. — mantle radio donated by Dominion Sound Equipments Ltd.

8859, The 3 R's, c-o The North Bay Daily Nugget, North Bay, Ont.—set of photographs donated by Associated Screen News Ltd.

12420, Gordon M. Tingley, 900 Main St., Moncton, N.B.—$10 donated by Firestone Enterprises Ltd.

5299, G. E. Thrift, 2722 W. 34 Ave., Vancouver, B. C.— season pass for two donated by Famous Players.

15544, Jos. Plottel, 164 Eastbourne, Toronto, Ont.— season pass for two donated by Loew's Theatre, Toronto.

156923, Sam Sternberg, 209 Glenholme Ave., Toronto, Ont.—$50 suit of clothes, made-to-measure, donated by S. Kalles Ltd.

8010, E. Gotts, 71½ Kenilworth Ave., N., Hamilton, Ont.—season pass for two, to any 20th Century theatre donated by 20th Century Theatres.

11248, Mrs. A. G. Schuberg, 1350 Peterson St., Long Beach, California—season pass for two, to any B & F theatre in Toronto, donated by B & F Theatres.

14970, Mr. R. H. V. McCartney, Capitol Theatre, Cornwall, Ont.—season pass for two, to Uptown Theatre donated by Loew's Inc.

14522, H. R. Patte, 1100 Royal Bank Bldg., King and Yonge Sts., Toronto, Ont.— season pass for two, to any Odeon Theatre donated by Odeon Theatres Ltd.

13343, J. Shewan, 3418 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont.—season pass for two, to any Premier Theatre donated by Premier Operating.

7656, P. R. Parliament, 51 King St. W., Chatham, Ont.—lady's silver bracelet donated by W. R. Johnston, Manufacturing Jewellers.

17346, Oscar Fontaine, Empire Theatre, La Tuque, Que.—Parker pen and pencil set donated by Underwood Elliott Fisher.

11050, J. Miles, Western Theatres Ltd., Winnipeg, Man.—table lamp donated by Office Stationery and Supply.

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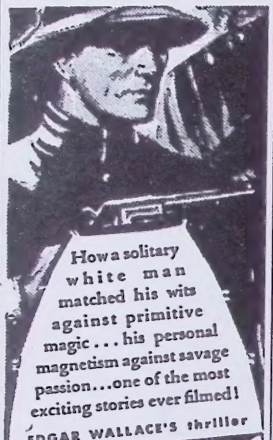
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Ontario Bureau Asks Aid of Showmen

A letter from O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau, addressed to theatre owners, projectionists and film exchanges, asks co-operation in enforcing Section 5 (d) of laws governing Sunday shows, which states that "All licences shall be issued to the implied condition that no exhibition or performance shall be permitted to take place on Sunday."

Writes Mr. Silverthorne:

"Many theatres throughout Ontario have been utilized on Sunday for various benefits. Motion picture film has also been used. In most instances the Department was duly informed.

"In future this regulation will be more strictly enforced and we are requesting theatre owners, projectionists and film exchanges to assist in its enforcement.

"In brief, the Department will not at any time permit the showings of commercial films on Sunday."

The action of the chairman of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau did much to ease the lot of managers and exhibitors, who are constantly beset to obtain film and donate the theatre for worthy causes, only to find themselves the target of opposition groups. Film exchanges co-operated by ruling that no features will be issued for any kind of Sunday showing.

The Lord's Day Alliance has maintained a constant war against Sunday shows, no matter how worthy the cause, and the theatre has often been the target by implication.

Nine Indicted In Film Fraud

(Continued from Page 1)

last, business agent of the Newark local, had no connection with the others arrested, who inherited the Al Capone syndicate when the gang leader was sent to jail.

Studios and the IATSE alike were victims of the mob. Two indictments, the result of three years of searching, charged that the mob collected more than $2,500,000 from the studios and the IATSE. It is said that gangsters gained control of the IATSE at the Louisville convention in 1934.

The indictments arose from investigations in the trials of Joseph M. Schenck, former chairman of the board of 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., convicted of income tax fraud and perjury, and William Bioff, convicted panderer and West Coast representative of the IATSE, and George E. Browne, IATSE president. Browne and Bioff are serving prison terms on charges of extorting more than $1,000,000,000 from the motion picture industry.

Browne and Bioff appeared, however, to have been mere catspaws, though well paid, of the Capone mob. Schenck, his film company and three other film companies — Loew's, Paramount and Warner Brothers—were the principal victims.

The Browne-Bioff trial disclosed that much of the extortion was accomplished under threats to harass the motion picture industry with strikes, through the union's control of motion picture projection machine operators.

The mail fraud was centered in a 2 per cent levy on the union's 42,000 members, ostensibly to pay the salaries and expenses of 50 "figurehead" executives of the union. All but $250,000 of more than $1,500,000 thus collected, he asserted, went into the pockets of the Capone mob.

The "executives" were supposed to be paid $110 a week as international representatives of the union, but "kicked back" $100, keeping $10 for their work of signing the checks.

Form Script Pool In Great Britain

A very novel scheme, a clearing house for film scripts, has been established in Great Britain. If the plan proves successful production interests will have to deal through this central agency in procuring new film scenarios.

Emphasizing the fact that there is no intention of creating a monopoly of any sort, F. Del Giudice, managing director of Two Cities, British film company, and Arthur Rank, released details of the new company, Scenario Institute, whose main aim will be to conserve the best efforts of British writers for home producers.

Through the control it hopes to obtain the Institute will be able to bargain and obtain reciprocal advantages for English producers from American interests.

Scenario Institute is ready to match Hollywood for first offer scripts, giving a number of guarantees.

BC Solons Urge Sunday Shows

Sunday non-charity shows for servicemen and warworkers won the support of several members during this session of the British Columbia Legislature. The matter of such shows has received more discussion generally in the Vancouver area, a shipbuilding centre, than in any other parts of Canada. B.C. labor leaders and union members have gone on record in favor of Sunday shows.

Suported by three members, Mrs. Dorothy G. Steeves (CCF) asked the house to do something about Sunday entertainment for soldiers and war workers whose hours make attendance at theatres during the usual time impossible.

"Something ought to be done to facilitate the opening of the movies on Sunday for war workers and servicemen," Mrs. Steeves told the house. "When you are in war work it sometimes appears that there is no other time for you to go to shows other than on Sundays. It is harmless entertainment and I would like to see something done about it."

Sunday shows would provide innocent amusement for men who will soon be fighting overseas for their country, in the opinion of Thomas Uphill (Labor) who said, "I believe they should be open all day Sunday, as they are in England and south of the border."

While Mrs. Nancy Hodges (Liberal) agreed in principle with this opinion, she said she would not suggest that moving picture shows should be open all day Sunday or indiscriminately.

Lieut. Louis LeBourdais (Liberal) suggested that places of amusement be provided where men in the service might take their women friends, and women in the service their civilian friends.

J. A. Paton (Cons.) spoke against the suggestion. He believes that with the coming of spring and summer, servicemen should take more interest in outdoor activities. He suggested swimming and fishing. "I think the boys should show some initiative and learn to amuse themselves. They won't always have movies following them around wherever they go," he said.

Opposition to anything along the lines of the British Columbia proposal has been expressed by private citizens not connected with religious or civic groups. One Albertan, writing to a local paper, pointed out that ushers, cashiers, projectionists and other members of the theatre staff would lose their Sundays.

Open theatres, he pointed out, demand more transportation and restaurant facilities and would affect the day of rest of people employed in these businesses.

News on the Fats Drive

Canadian schoolchildren, going all-out in the Dominion fats salvage drive, have helped reclaim thousands of pounds of renderings for the manufacture of necessary explosives. In the Maritimes and the West, theatre managers, school officials and grocers have been very active.

Calling themselves "Explosive Commandos," Calgary children helped gather fats for Canada's ammunition and saw a free movie while they were at it. To make certain that none of the kids would be disappointed the Palace, Grand, Capitol, Strand and Variety theatres co-operated with the Calgary Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association and the Salvage Depot, and stood by for overflow crowds.

Halifax schoolchildren brought 13,000 pounds of fat into the drive, each receiving a free ticket to a specially selected Saturday morning show. In co-operation with the school supervisor and school board, R. S. Roddick, manager of the Capitol for Famous Players, sponsored this work and secured the help of other theatres.

Red Deer, Alberta, salvage officials created a chain-store tie-up using the stores as allocation centres for fats contributions. With theatre managers' aid they obtained 2,200 pounds of fat from the juveniles who viewed free film showings in the Capitol theatre.

The Brandon Patriotic Salvage Corps made arrangements for Brandon, Manitoba's second fats show. Children bringing two pounds of fat or waste grease to the local school were admitted to Saturday morning shows.

Lieberman New Maritime Prexy

J. A. Lieberman, manager of Columbia's branch in St. John's, N.B., was elected to succeed A. E. Smith to the presidency of the Maritime Film Board of Trade at its annual session in St. John's.

The board covers the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

Police Break Up Show Burglary

Police broke up a three-man robbery attempt at the Majestic Theatre, Dresden, Ont. After firing several shots, Chief Alvin Watson, who discovered the break-in, caught two men in the theatre. Traffic Officer T. L. G. Howell watched them while Watson captured the third as he tried to leave town.

Manitoba Defeats Juve Ban Bill

An amendment to the Amusement act, prohibiting children under 14 from viewing pictures marked adult, was killed in law amendments committee of the Manitoba Legislature last week by a vote of 12 to 4.

The bill, sent back to the law amendments committee for revision by the house, provided the proposed legislation apply only to Greater Winnipeg. M. A. Gray, CCF, Winnipeg, moved for deletion of the words "Greater Winnipeg only" but a motion by J. R. Solomon, Lib.-Prog., Emerson, that the bill be not reported was carried by a majority of three to one.

The bill brought to an end a three-year study of the special select standing committee.

E. K. Williams, representing downtown motion picture exhibitors, contended that evidence presented before the committee by Judge F. A. E. Hamilton of the juvenile court, had not shown that delinquency among either boys or girls was attributable to gangster or horror pictures.

He contended the present bill was an unwarranted interference with private enterprise and the committee would be well advised to avoid legislating for special groups. He contended, also, that no legislation of this nature should be applied only to the Greater Winnipeg district.

"If you are going to legislate to prevent children's morals being corrupted, you must include also the radio programmes and the cheap thrillers to be found in any book store. Is the legislature in effect going to tell the parents of Winnipeg that in the main they are not qualified to supervise the pictures their children shall see?"

The proposed legislation, he believed, was only the opening wedge in a campaign to tighten the restrictions. It was not possible to exhibit 52 general pictures in Winnipeg during a year, he said, as not that many were made yearly. He said the Roman Catholic League for Decency and the Hays organization had improved the tone of pictures.

A. V. Pigott, principal of Machray school, and spokesman for those seeking the legislation, asked why there should be classification of pictures if there wasn't a follow through. He referred to the fact that children were not allowed adult books in the public libraries, nor were they allowed to be exploited in the field of child labor.

He denied the committee sought further legislative bars on the types of pictures children should see, and he decried the argument that picture houses would suffer financially.

"We do believe we should not be dependent on the whims of an industry outside Canada," he said. "All we want to do is to provide a healthy background for the children."

A. M. Shinbane, representing suburban theatres, said the proposed legislation would have the effect of putting his clients out of business. If parents of suburban children felt the type of pictures shown were undesirable they would soon communicate their views to the management.

"Why make Winnipeg the guinea pig of this experiment?" he demanded. "I submit it is the child of 15 or 16 who is more impressionable and whose emotions may be overstimulated.

"The Amusement act as it stands provides both the principle and the machinery for effective regulation of motion pictures."

The Winnipeg Free Press opposed the bill.

St. Kitt's Council Eyes 12.05s

Contending that Sunday midnight theatre shows are harmful physically and morally, a deputation representing the Ministerial Alliance has requested the St. Catharines, Ont., city council to prohibit these shows. The request was referred to the finance committee for consideration and so that the opinion of the city solicitor's department may be secured in regard to council's authority in banning midnight shows.

Mayor Charles Daley told the spokesman: "I can't think of any argument against what you have said. I first thought that Sunday midnight shows were a convenience to war workers on shift work, but from what you have said they are largely attended by youths. This will receive our serious consideration."

Rev. W. G. James said the Alliance decided to act after general church boards across Canada had made a survey of the midnight show situation.

Mack Sennett To Join 20th-Fox?

Mack Sennett, old-time founder of Keystone cops and originator of screen bathing beauties, may bring his old knack back to the public via 20th Century-Fox. He is reported talking a writer-producer deal. Four years ago he returned for a brief bow.

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